

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COTONO 00339 150722Z  
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 /013 W  
-----150723Z 044204 /17

R 150634Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9389  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS COTONOU 0339

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SCUL DM  
SUBJ: USG ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

REF: A-155

1. USG CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN ENGLISH TEACHING (ET)  
IN PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BENIN(PRB) AS FOLLOWS:

A) USIS TEACHES 250 MIDDLE AND SENIOR LEVEL  
CIVIL SERVANTS ON USIS CENTER PREMISES. CLASSES ARE  
FOR ALL LEVELS, BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED, ALSO INCLUDE  
SPECIALIZED COURSES "ENGLISH FOR BUSINESSMEN" AND "ENGLISH  
FOR STUDENTS OF ECONOMICS." BENINESE  
OF MANY OCCUPATIONS ACTIVELY SEEK OUT CLASSES, BUT FIRST  
PRIORITY IS GIVEN BY USIS TO CIVIL SERVANTS ASSIGNED BY  
THEIR MINISTRY TO TAKE OUR COURSES.

B) 22 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS TEACH ENGLISH IN  
LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

C) USIS PAO TEACHES TWO COURSES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE  
AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF BENIN(NUB).

D) USIS SUPPLIES ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BOOKS TO MANY  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH  
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CURRENT EDUCATIONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHY MIGHT  
ALREADY HAVE SPELLED THE END OF THIS PROGRAM.

2. USG INVOLVEMENT OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS SHOULD  
CONCENTRATE ON CLASSES MENTIONED IN A ABOVE, GIVEN AT  
THE CULTURAL CENTER. SPACE LIMITATIONS CURRENTLY HOLD DOWN  
THE SIZE OF THIS PROGRAM, BUT PROJECTED CHANGE OF CENTER

LOCATION MIGHT CHANGE THIS. PC ET PROGRAM AND CLASSES PAO TEACHES AT NUB MIGHT PROVE TO BE IMPOSSIBLE STARTING NEXT YEAR, AS ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURE IN BENIN IS RAPIDLY BEING ALTERED TO INCLUDE MORE IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING AND LESS "CLASSICAL" STUDIES REMINISCENT OF COLONIAL TIMES.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT AND PROJECTED LEVEL OF ET PROGRAM IS THAT THIS IS A VALUABLE CONDUIT FOR COMMUNICATION WITH SENIOR AND MIDDLE LEVEL CIVIL SERVANTS, BOTH THROUGH MATERIALS USED IN COURSES AND STUDENTS PRESENCE AT CULTURAL CENTER, WHERE THEY ARE EXPOSED TO USIS MATERIALS AND PROGRAMS. SUCH COMMUNICATION HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT OVER SPACE OF PAST TWO YEARS. FYI, GPRB PERCEIVES ENGLISH SPEAKING CAPABILITY AS NECESSARY FOR DELAINGS WITH NEIGHBORING NIGERIA, SO THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE RETICENT TO CHANGE OR LIMIT USG INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ACTIVITY. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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